

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 2, 2004. Claims 1 to 20 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 7 and 15 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 6, 12 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, based on insufficient antecedent basis for “the reference point”. In response, antecedent language for the rejected claims has been improved, as has the antecedent language for other claims such as Claims 9 and 18. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 9 and 12 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,766,343 (Bell), and Claims 10 and 11 were rejected over Bell in view of U.S. Patent 5,751,275 (Bullister) and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,835,693 (Lynch). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The invention concerns storage of data sets described using multiple different coordinate systems into a single file format. Because a single file format is defined even though the data sets might be described using multiple different coordinate systems, the single file format ensures portability and facilitates ease of use across different systems.

According to the invention, a data set in a first coordinate system is acquired, and the first coordinate system data set is formatted into non-Cartesian

representation (NCR). Thereafter, the data set that has been formatted into NCR format is stored in the single file format.

In entering its rejection, the Office Action conceded that the primary reference to Bell fails to explicitly describe storage of a resulting formatted data set. The Office Action took the position that such a feature was “notoriously well-known in the art”, based on official notice. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this position, since it is believed to be based on faulty reasoning, as described below.

First, it is believed that the system described by Bell would have no reason to store its NCR-formatted data, since Bell’s entire purpose in transforming from source to target coordinate systems is to compare coordinates. Since Bell’s purpose is comparison, there would not have been any reason to store the transformed result, because it is the comparison that was important and not the transformation. As a consequence, it follows that since there is no reason to store Bell’s transformed data, there could not possibly have been any reason to modify the Bell system as hypothesized in the Office Action.

Second, even if it would have been obvious to modify Bell so as to store his NCR-formatted data (which is not conceded as described above), it still would not have been obvious to store it in the manner described by the claims herein. Specifically, the claims specify that NCR-formatted data is stored in a “single file format” even though data sets might be described using multiple different coordinate systems. Such a feature is not described or fairly suggested by Bell or any of the other references applied in the Office Action, and allowance of the claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Should the PTO persist in its position that the invention would have been obvious from Bell, then it is respectfully requested to provide citations to art in support of any official notice that might be taken in the rejection. See MPEP § 2144.03.

No other matters being raised in the Office Action, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

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